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Razaleigh dismisses Pas' proposals as a lot of hot air

TAIPING, Fri. - Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has dismissed as "lots of hot air", Pas' proposals to uphold Islamic system of administration and make Kelantan an Islamic State.

Tengku Razaleigh said he was "quite an authority on Pas". And as president of the defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46, he had worked with Pas on the basis that it would implement Islamic system of administration, and unite the Malays.

"However, I found Pas and its leaders to be good only at talking about Islam and its values, and not at carrying them out."

He was speaking at the launching of the additional share contributions by Area Farmers Organisation to the Farmers Organisation Board, by Deputy Agriculture Minister Datuk Tengku Mahmud Mansor at the Bukit Gantang AFO office.

Tengku Razaleigh said Umno, on the other hand, had done more in terms of policies and changes based on Islam.

Also present were Perak Agriculture committee chairman Ramli Zahari, Education, Youth and Sports committee chairman Datuk Abdul Malek Hanafiah, Bukit Gantang MP Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan and Changkat Jering by-election BN candidate Mat Isa Ismail.

Mat Isa is facing Pas candidate Idris Ahmad in the by-election tomorrow.

Tengku Razaleigh said when his party was in the Pas-led Kelantan Government, he had asked for the State Mufti and Syariah court judges to be upgraded, but Pas leaders turned it down. They did the same to another suggestion, of having mosques in the State to be centres for religious education.

"Just banning gambling - which is about the only thing Pas did in Kelantan to propagate its style of Islamic administration - do not necessarily make the State an Islamic State.

"If that is so, then China and Singapore, which both banned gambling, are Islamic States," he added.

On the currency problems, Tengku Razaleigh welcomed the move by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for currency trading to be regulated, saying speculations could have devastating effects on developing countries.

He said that the ringgit and Malaysia's economic fundamentals were strong and there was no need for changes towards an Asian or Asean currency as adopted in Europe.

"However, if this is one of the options to avoid rogue speculations, it may be an alternative which could be considered," he added.

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